

Carter Sanctions Use of Reporters As CIA Helpers

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President Carter, in an interview made public yesterday by the White House, endorsed using reporters as CIA operatives overseas under "extreme circumstances" involving U.S. security.

The use of journalists by the Central Intelligence Agency is a sensitive issue. News media officials have complained that the practice endangers all correspondents abroad and casts suspicion on them.

Press secretary Jody Powell said the president's remarks applied only to the use of reporters. Powell acknowledged that he himself could "see it as a problem. But on balance, I do not see that because someone happens to be a reporter that there should be a law saying they ... should not act in the interests of national security."

"In a rapidly changing international situation where, on occasion, our nation's own security of existence might be threatened, we do not want to publicly foreclose the option of taking certain action that might be necessary," Carter told a group of editors and broadcasters at the White House.

"I think Adm. Turner expressed the policy accurately," Carter said.